

1
2
3 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
4 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

5 * * *

6 MACIE PEELER,

7 Plaintiff,

8 v.

9 STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE
INS. CO.,

10 Defendant.
11

Case No. 2:17-cv-02735-JAD-DJA

ORDER

12 This matter is before the Court on Defendant's Emergency Motion to Stay Discovery
13 (ECF No. 67), filed on June 8, 2020. Plaintiff filed a Response (ECF No. 69) on June 19, 2020.
14 Defendant filed a Reply (ECF No. 70) on June 25, 2020. The Court finds this matter properly
15 resolved without a hearing. *See* Local Rule 78-1.

16 Courts have broad discretionary power to control discovery. *See, e.g., Little v. City of*
17 *Seattle*, 863 F.2d 681, 685 (9th Cir.1988). In deciding whether to grant a stay of discovery, the
18 Court is guided by the objectives of Rule 1 to ensure a just, speedy, and inexpensive
19 determination of every action. *See Kidneigh v. Tournament One Corp.*, 2013 WL 1855764, at *2
20 (D. Nev. May 1, 2013). "The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure do not provide for automatic or
21 blanket stays of discovery when a potentially dispositive motion is pending." *Tradebay, LLC v.*
22 *eBay, Inc.*, 278 F.R.D. 597, 600 (D. Nev. 2011). However, preliminary issues such as
23 jurisdiction, venue, or immunity are common situations that may justify a stay. *See Twin City*
24 *Fire Ins. v. Employers of Wausau*, 124 F.R.D. 653 (D. Nev. 1989); *see also Kabo Tools Co. v.*
25 *Porauto Indus. Co.*, 2013 WL 5947138, at *1 (D. Nev. Oct. 31, 2013) (granting stay based on
26 alleged lack of personal jurisdiction); *Ministerio Roca Solida v. U.S. Dep't of Fish & Wildlife*,
27 288 F.R.D. 500, 506 (D. Nev. 2013) (granting stay based in part on alleged lack of subject matter
28 jurisdiction). Further, motions to stay discovery pending resolution of a dispositive motion may

1 be granted when: (1) the pending motion is potentially dispositive; (2) the potentially dispositive
2 motion can be decided without additional discovery; and (3) the Court has taken a “preliminary
3 peek” at the merits of the potentially dispositive motion to evaluate the likelihood of dismissal.
4 *See Kor Media Group, LLC v. Green*, 294 F.R.D. 579, 581 (D. Nev. 2013).

5 A party seeking to stay discovery pending resolution of a potentially dispositive motion
6 bears the heavy burden of establishing that discovery should be stayed. *See, e.g., Turner*
7 *Broadcasting System, Inc. v. Tracinda Corp.*, 175 F.R.D. 554, 556 (D. Nev. 1997) (noting that a
8 stay of discovery may be appropriate where the complaint was “utterly frivolous, or filed merely
9 for settlement value.”); *Blankenship v. Hearst Corp.*, 519 F.2d 418, 429 (9th Cir. 1975). When
10 deciding whether to issue a stay, a court must take a “preliminary peek” at the merits of the
11 dispositive motion pending in the case. *Tradebay*, 278 F.R.D. at 602-603. In doing so, a court
12 must consider whether the pending motion is potentially dispositive of the entire case, and
13 whether that motion can be decided without additional discovery. *Id.* This “preliminary peek” is
14 not intended to prejudge the outcome, but to evaluate the propriety of a stay of discovery “with
15 the goal of accomplishing the objectives of Rule 1.” *Id.* (citation omitted). That discovery may
16 involve inconvenience and expense is not sufficient, standing alone, to support a stay of
17 discovery. *Turner Broadcasting*, 175 F.R.D. at 556. An overly lenient standard for granting
18 requests to stay would result in unnecessary delay in many cases.

19 After considering all of the arguments raised by the parties, the Court finds that Defendant
20 has not carried its burden of demonstrating that a stay of discovery is warranted in this case.
21 Having taken a preliminary peek at the Motion for Reconsideration or Request for Certification
22 (ECF No. 51), the Court is not convinced that Defendant will succeed in obtaining the relief
23 requested. The Court notes its view “may be very different than how the assigned district judge
24 will see the . . . picture.” *AMC Fabrication, Inc. v. KRD Trucking W., Inc.*, 2012 WL 4846152,
25 *4 (D. Nev. Oct. 10, 2012). Nevertheless, the Court does not agree with Defendant that the
26 pending Motion warrants a stay of discovery as it is not dispositive of the entire case and would
27 unnecessarily delay discovery. Indeed, this case was removed to this Court on October 30, 2017
28 and Judge Dorsey has already issued her Order (ECF No. 47) denying Defendant’s Motion for

1 Summary Judgment. Further, the parties have participated in a settlement conference, which was
2 unsuccessful. (ECF No. 64). The Court finds this case is ripe for discovery to commence and
3 will deny Defendant's request to stay.

4 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Defendant's Emergency Motion to Stay Discovery
5 (ECF No. 67) is **denied**.

6 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the parties shall file a stipulated discovery plan and
7 scheduling order within 14 days of this Order and review the amendments to the Local Rules of
8 Practice for the District of Nevada that were adopted on April 17, 2020, specifically Local Rules
9 26-1 through 26-7, to ensure that they submit a compliant plan.

10 DATED: June 26, 2020.

11 
12 _____
13 DANIEL J. ALBREGTS
14 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28